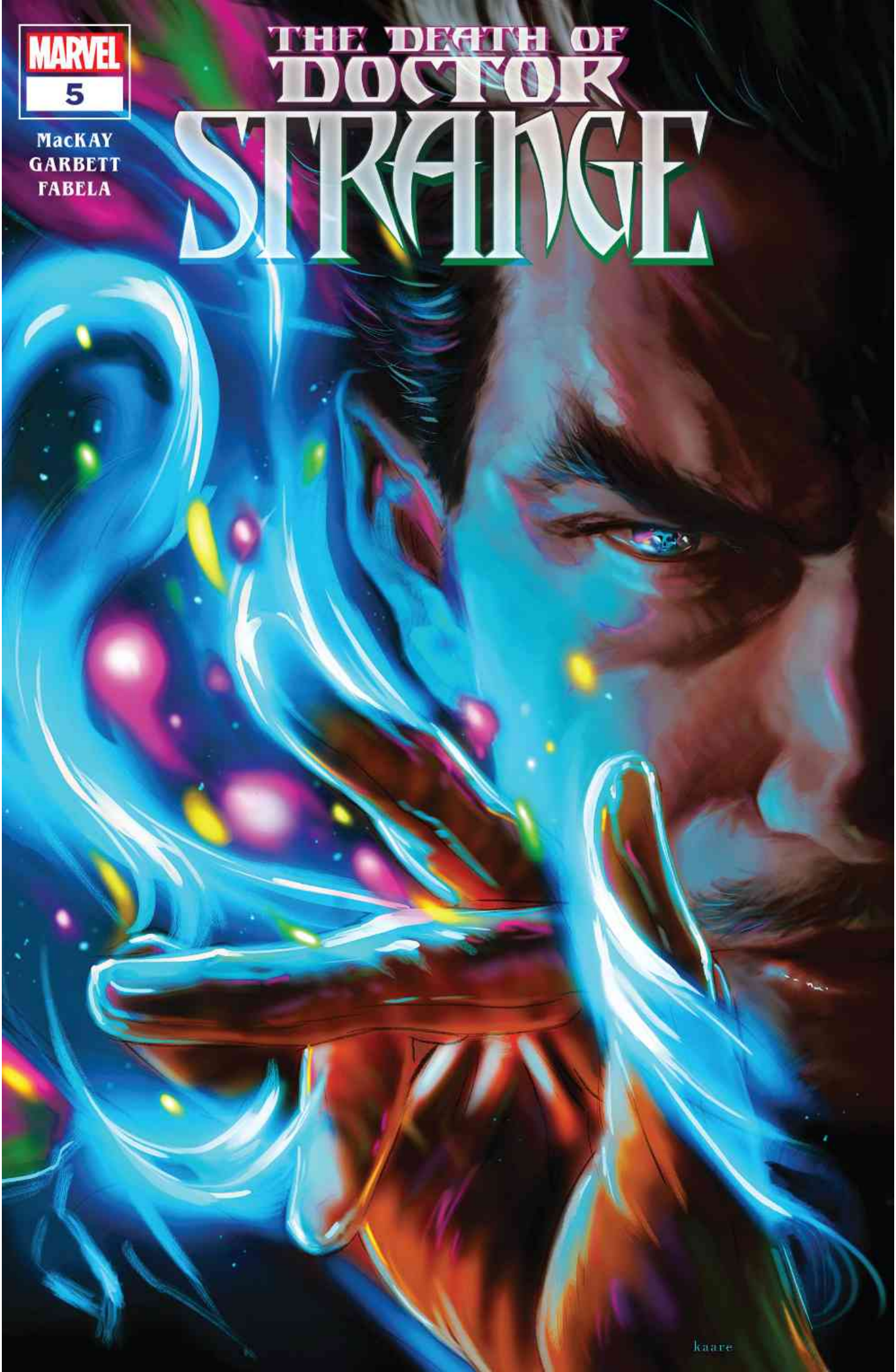
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MacKAY
GARBETT
FABELA
THE DEATH OF
DOCTOR
STRANGE
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THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

Doctor Strange is dead. And with him gone, so too is Earth's magic barrier that warded off other dimensional threats. The planet is being occupied by kingdoms from across all of reality. But they aren't invading...they're fleeing.

That includes Clea, a sorcerer of the Dark Dimension and Strange's estranged wife. She has been chased back to Earth by the Three Mothers, mysterious apex predators hunting magical beings.

But even the combined might of the Avengers, Wong, Doctor Voodoo and a time-displaced Doctor Strange weren't enough to defeat them.

And since then, the Mothers have hunted down the magical warlords one by one, and now stand upon the doors of New Umarria, ready to feed their child the remainder of magical beings.

However, Doctor Strange has solved his murder and caught Kaecilius with the sorcerer's stolen hands as proof!

Now Stephen must act fast to save the world before his borrowed time runs out.

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DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

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CHAPTER ELEVEN:

Physician, Heal Thyself

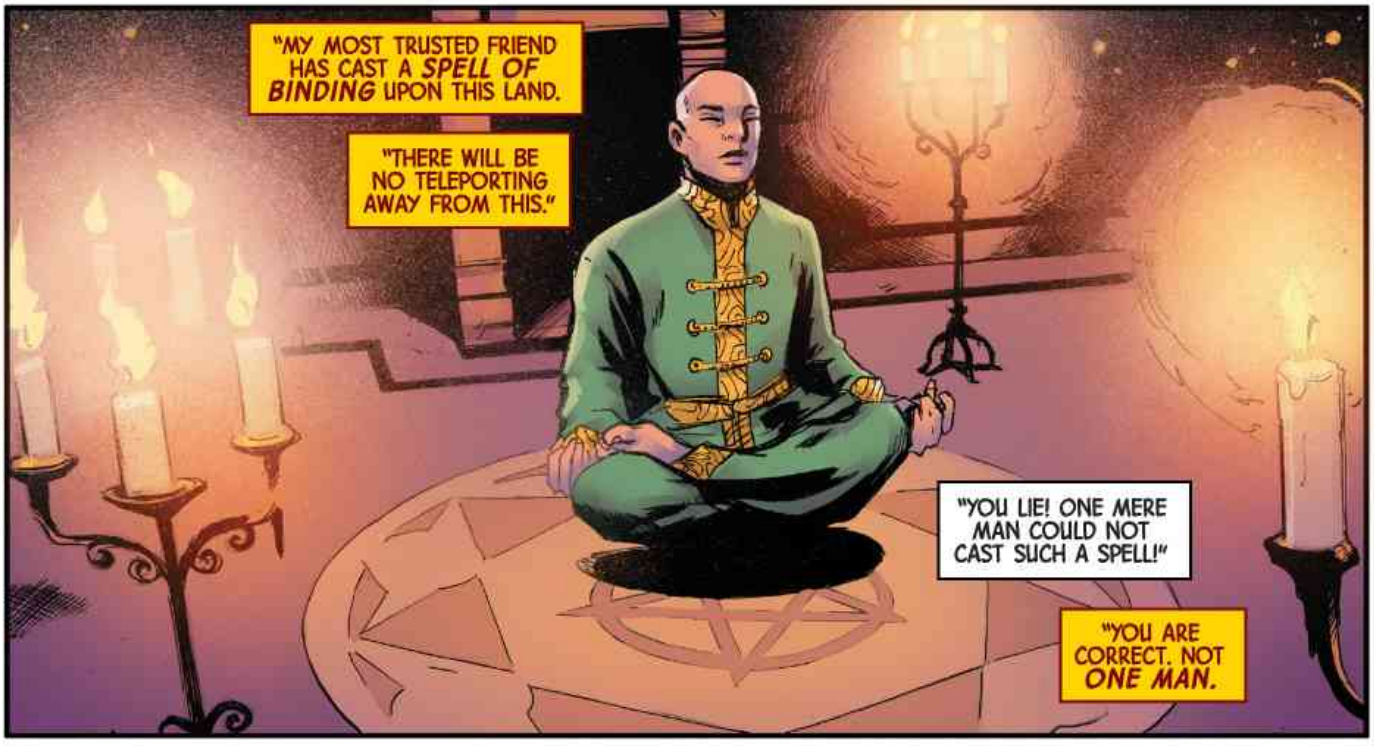
KA-BOOM
THE THREE MOTHERS ARE HERE!
THE PEREGRINE CHILD IS HERE!

THANK YOU FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT, UMAR.
BUT I THINK I WILL BE LEAVING NOW.
OH, YOU WILL *NOT*, AGGAMON.

NO ONE IS GOING ANYWHERE.
FOR ONCE, DEAR WARLORDS, YOU WILL BE MADE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS.
EITHER WE ALL PREVAIL HERE TODAY OR *WE ALL DIE.*

MY MAGIC--
WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*, YOU FOOL?!

CALL IT *PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE*, TIBORO.


"MY MOST TRUSTED FRIEND HAS CAST A *SPELL OF BINDING* UPON THIS LAND.
"THERE WILL BE NO TELEPORTING AWAY FROM THIS."
"YOU LIE! ONE MERE MAN COULD NOT CAST SUCH A SPELL!"
"YOU ARE CORRECT. NOT *ONE MAN.*

"BUT THE STEPHEN STRANGE YOU KILLED HAD *MANY* FRIENDS.
"AND WHEN THE JOINED POWER OF EARTH'S MAGICIANS IS FOCUSED TOGETHER..."
...THEN *MIGHTY WORKS INDEED* MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED.
ARE YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?!

IT WOULD BE EASY TO DO SO.
FOR ALL YOUR STOLEN POWER, FOR ALL YOUR RAGE, YOU ARE STILL SO *PAINFULLY INSIGNIFICANT*, KAECILIUS.
I CAN READ YOUR MAGIC AS CLEARLY AS I CAN MY OWN HANDWRITING.
SHIELD AFTER SHIELD.
WARD AFTER WARD.
NO COMBAT SPELL MAY TOUCH YOU. NO WEAPON MAY HURT YOU.
AM I SO INSIGNIFICANT *NOW*, STRANGE?

WHAT WAS *THAT?*
A SPELL? REALLY, STRANGE?
I AM WARDED AGAINST HARM! NO SPELL OF VIOLENCE, OF HURT, OF MENTAL SUBVERSION OR SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION CAN PASS MY SHIELDS!
YOU HOLD MY VERY SOUL IN MY OWN *STOLEN HANDS,* KAECILIUS. AND STILL, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.
I AM A *DOCTOR.*
I CAST THE ONE SPELL THAT COULD GET THROUGH YOUR WARDS. THE ONE SPELL THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO PREPARE AGAINST.
A *HEALING* SPELL.
A SPELL OF *REGENERATION.*

ONE THAT REQUIRES STILL-LIVING FLESH AND A SOUL FOR A BASE.
WHAT--?

AND RAW MATERIALS TO BE CONVERTED. CONSUMED. WITH WHICH TO RECONSTRUCT.
NO--
NO, NO--

NO! NO!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME INTO YOU--
THIS IS INHUMAN, STRANGE!
I AM THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC, KAECILIUS. I AM INHUMAN WHEN IT IS REQUIRED.
PERHAPS, IN TIME, I WILL GROW TO BE KINDER, MORE MERCIFUL.
IN FACT, I BELIEVE THAT I DO.
AAAGGHH--
BUT THAT MAN, YOU MURDERED.
NO... CAN IT BE?

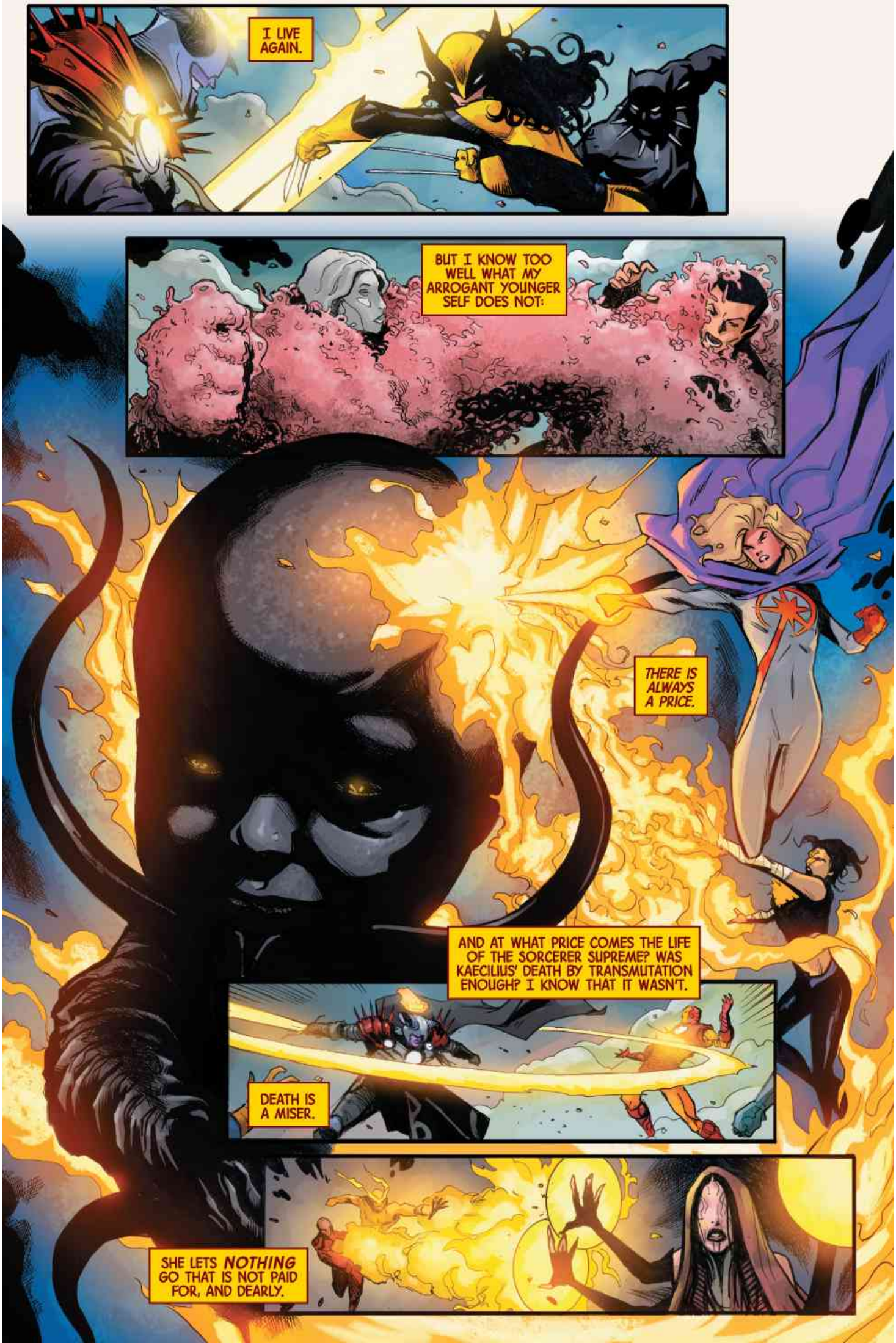
WHAT--? I--
I BELIEVE THE WORD YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS "ZOUNDS."
WELCOME BACK, DOCTOR.
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO TIME FOR FOND REUNIONS.
FOR NOW, WE GO TO WAR.
I MUST SUMMON MY ARMIES.

CHAPTER TWELVE:

The Battle of Antarctica

MY YOUNGER SELF ORCHESTRATED A WAR.
THE X-MEN AND AVENGERS CAME AT HIS SUMMONS. THE WARLORDS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN OUR CAUSE AS A RESULT OF HIS MACHINATIONS.
I DO NOT REMEMBER BEING SO ACCOMPLISHED, SO CALCULATING.

SO COLD.
BUT ICE MAY MELT, EVEN IN ANTARCTICA...
...DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, DOCTOR?
I AM NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH I LIKE BEING CALLED A FOOL, EVEN BY MY OWN YOUNGER SELF.
AND YET, HERE WE FIND OURSELVES.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, DOCTOR. I WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS BATTLE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I HAVE SOLVED YOUR MURDER AND EVEN UNDONE IT, BUT WHAT I'VE ASKED OF YOU, DEMANDED OF YOU, IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL OF THAT.
FROM ONE DEAD MAN TO ANOTHER: HEED MY ADVICE, DOCTOR.
...
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR. OF COURSE YOU ARE.
THANK YOU.
DO EACH OF YOU UNDERSTAND THE PART YOU ARE TO PLAY?
WE DO. AND YOUR PART IN THIS?
MY PART IS SET.
I KNOW NOW WHAT I AM FOR. MY PURPOSE. WHICH, I SUPPOSE, IS MORE THAN MOST GAIN FROM LIFE.
JUST REMEMBER WHAT I'VE ASKED OF YOU, DOCTOR, SO THAT IT MAY ALL BE WORTH IT.


I LIVE AGAIN.
BUT I KNOW TOO WELL WHAT MY ARROGANT YOUNGER SELF DOES NOT:
THERE IS ALWAYS A PRICE.
AND AT WHAT PRICE COMES THE LIFE OF THE SORCERER SUPREME? WAS KAECILIUS' DEATH BY TRANSMUTATION ENOUGH? I KNOW THAT IT WASN'T.
DEATH IS A MISER.
SHE LETS *NOTHING* GO THAT IS NOT PAID FOR, AND DEARLY.

BUT I CANNOT THINK OF THAT NOW.
MY OWN DEATH, MY OWN LIFE, IS MERELY ONE OF THE MANY LIVES AND DEATHS IN THE BALANCE IN THIS BATTLE.
HEROES FIGHT FOR MY CAUSE. IN MY NAME.
HUMAN, MUTANT, GOD...
...THEY HAVE COME TO ANTARCTICA TO DO BATTLE WITH CREATURES THEY KNOW THEY CANNOT DEFEAT.
THEY HAVE COME TO STAKE THEIR LIVES IN A BATTLE THAT MUST BE FOUGHT, TO FACE DOWN THEIR OWN DEATHS, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT MUST BE DONE.
BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THEY DO. THAT IS WHO THEY ARE.

THE AVENGERS HAVE BATTLED AGAINST HOPELESS ODDS TIME AND AGAIN.
THE X-MEN HAVE FOUGHT FOR THEIR PEOPLE YEAR AFTER YEAR.

THEY ARE THE GREATEST WARRIORS OUR PLANET CAN SUMMON.

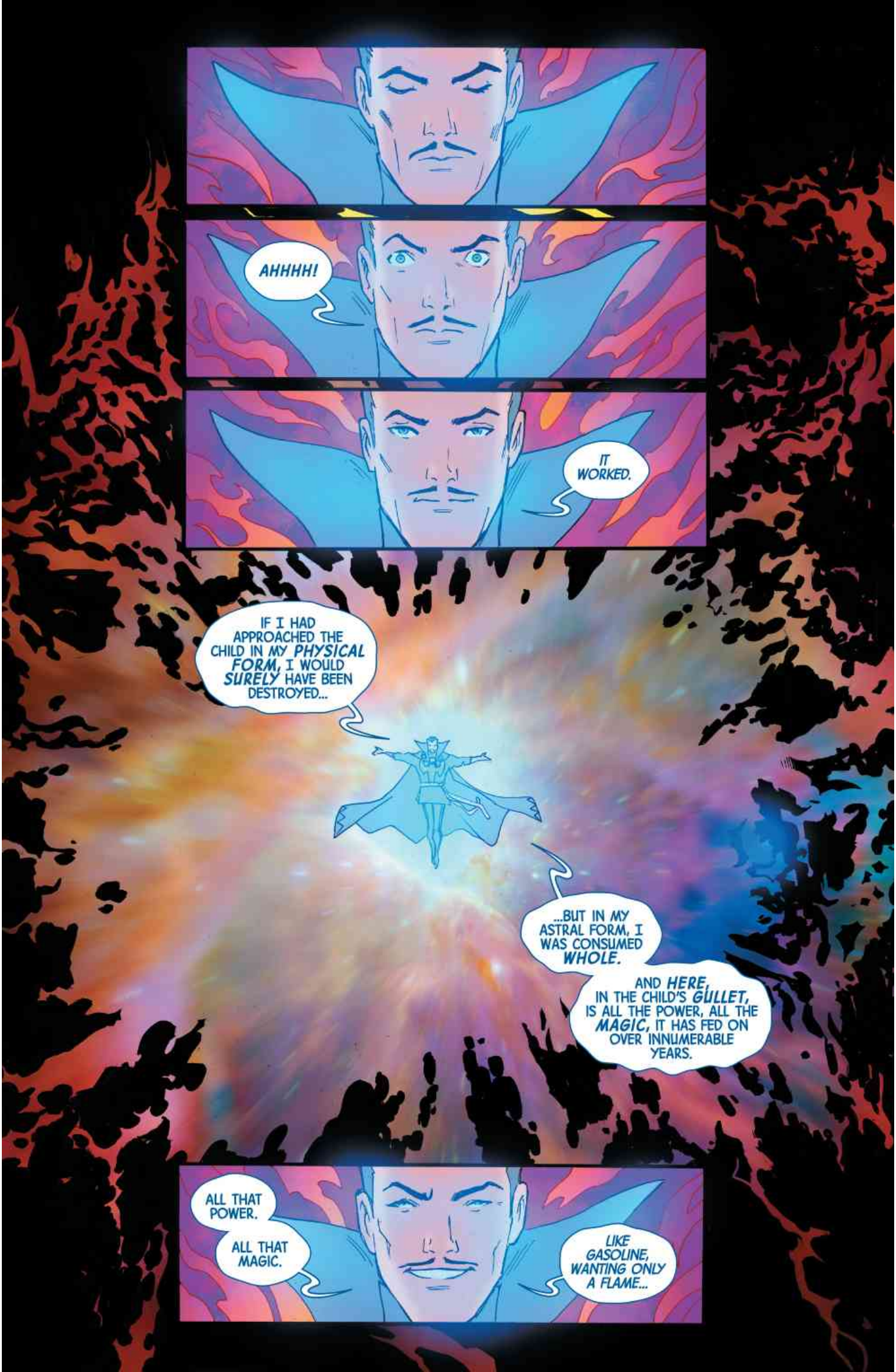
BUT WHILE THIS BATTLE WOULD BE LOST *WITHOUT* THEM, THIS IS NOT A BATTLE THAT WILL BE WON BY *WARRIORS.*

IT IS A WAR OF *WIZARDS.*
A BATTLE OF *MAGICIANS.*
SORCERERS.

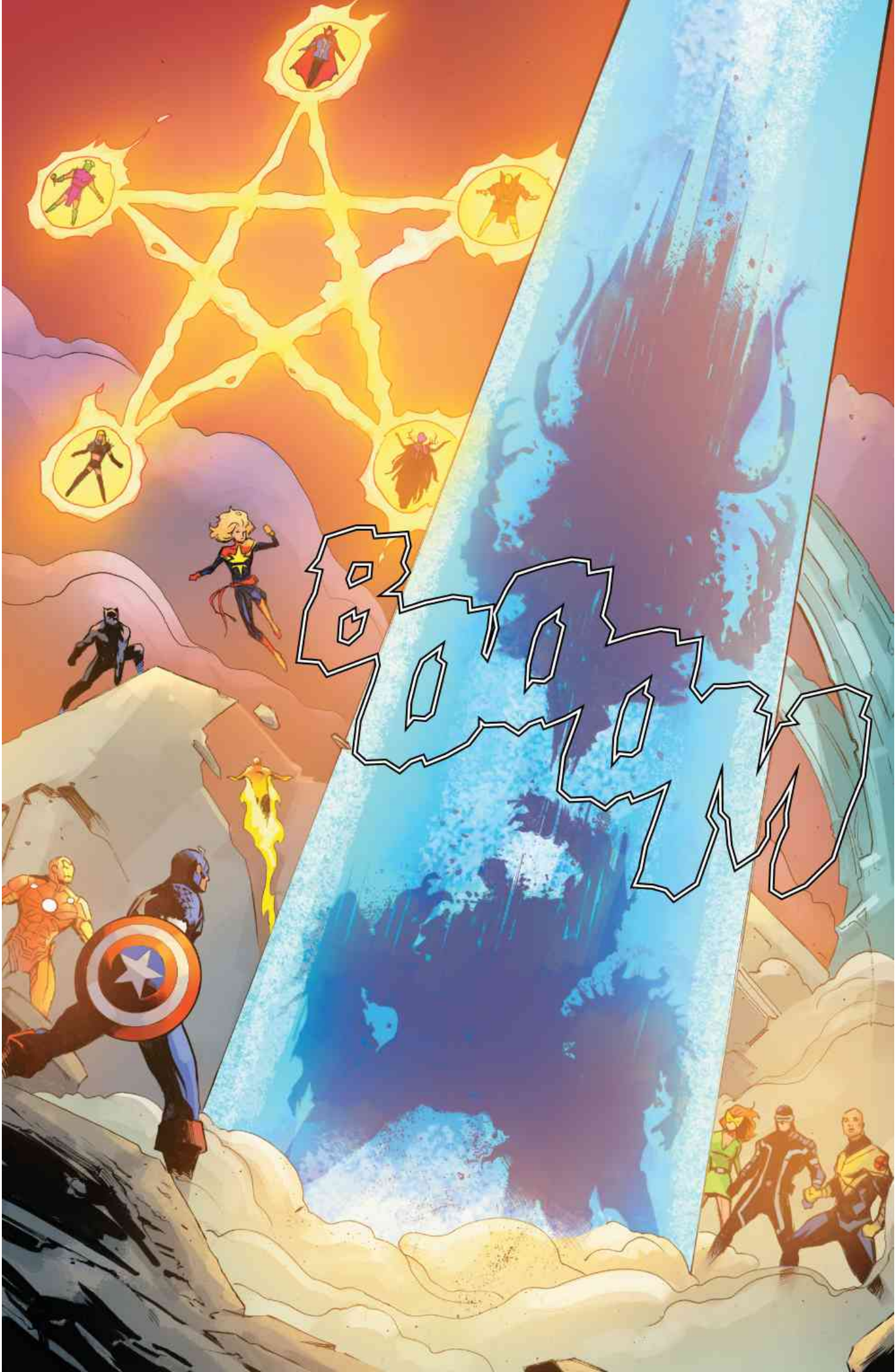
SORCERERS SUPREME.
DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE,
SORCERER SUPREME OF EARTH.
AGGAMON,
SORCERER SUPREME OF THE PURPLE DIMENSION.
TIBORO,
SORCERER SUPREME OF THE SIXTH DIMENSION.
CLEA,
SORCERER SUPREME OF THE DARK DIMENSION.
ILLYANA RASPUTINA,
SORCERER SUPREME OF LIMBO.

five sorcerers supreme
sisters we
cannot hold
NO! NO!
WE WILL NOT BE BANISHED THUS!
AID YOUR MOTHERS, SWEET CHILD! WE BEG OF YOU!
YES.
FOR YOU, MOTHERS.
MY POWER.
DON'T BE AFRAID, STEPHEN.

MY YOUNGER SELF STRIKES AS HE HAD PLANNED. LIKE AN ARROW FROM THE BOW OF A GOD.
KNOW FEAR, CHILD!
FOR YOU FACE DOCTOR STRANGE, THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!
LIKE LIGHTNING FROM A CLEAR SKY.
BUT EVEN HIS BRAVERY, HIS CONFIDENCE, HIS ARROGANCE...
NO--
...IS NOTHING TO THE PEREGRINE CHILD.
NOOOO--
HOLD! HOLD THE SPELL!
TRUST IN THE PLAN. HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS FOR.


AHHHH!
IT WORKED.
IF I HAD APPROACHED THE CHILD IN MY PHYSICAL FORM, I WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED...
...BUT IN MY ASTRAL FORM, I WAS CONSUMED WHOLE.
AND HERE, IN THE CHILD'S GULLET, IS ALL THE POWER, ALL THE MAGIC, IT HAS FED ON OVER INNUMERABLE YEARS.
ALL THAT POWER.
ALL THAT MAGIC.
LIKE GASOLINE, WANTING ONLY A FLAME...

"...AND I WILL BURN SO BRIGHTLY."
THAT'S IT! HE'S DONE IT!
"THE CHILD IS UNDONE!"
I KNOW NOW WHAT I AM FOR.
NOW! FORCE THE MOTHERS AND THE CHILD OUT!
"SCATTER THEM ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS!
"WITHOUT THE CHILD, THE MOTHERS WILL BE STRANDED...
"...AND WHEN THE CHILD DETONATES...
"...IT MUST BE FAR, FAR AWAY!"


BOOM

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

The Death of Doctor Strange

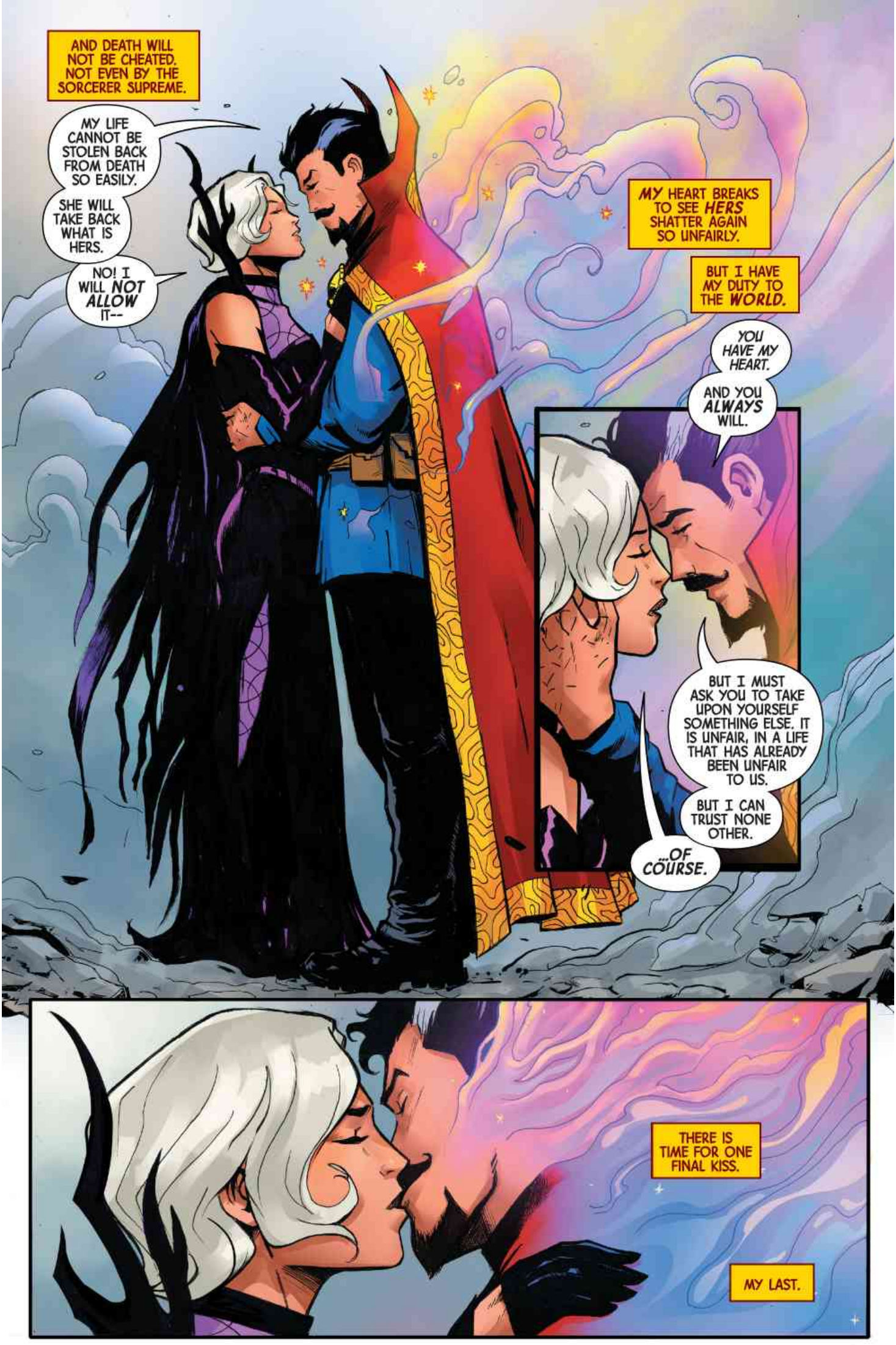
WE ARE VICTORIOUS.
STEPHEN...

I'VE BEEN GIVEN BACK MY LIFE.
CLEA. MY LOVE.
THE YOUNGER VERSION OF MYSELF...BEFORE WE WENT INTO BATTLE...
...HE MADE A DEMAND OF ME.

GIVEN BACK MY LOVE.
HE CALLED ME A FOOL FOR EVER LETTING YOU GO.
HE TOLD ME THAT I MUST KEEP YOU. FOR AS LONG AS I CAN. FOR AS LONG AS YOU WILL HAVE ME.
AND HE WAS RIGHT.

EVERYTHING.
YOU ARE MINE, STEPHEN.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING YOU TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

BUT THE PRICE WAS NOT PAID.
BUT HE WAS ALSO WRONG, CLEA.


AND DEATH WILL NOT BE CHEATED. NOT EVEN BY THE SORCERER SUPREME.
MY LIFE CANNOT BE STOLEN BACK FROM DEATH SO EASILY.
SHE WILL TAKE BACK WHAT IS HERS.
NO! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT--
MY HEART BREAKS TO SEE HERS SHATTER AGAIN SO UNFAIRLY.
BUT I HAVE MY DUTY TO THE WORLD.
YOU HAVE MY HEART.
AND YOU ALWAYS WILL.
BUT I MUST ASK YOU TO TAKE UPON YOURSELF SOMETHING ELSE. IT IS UNFAIR, IN A LIFE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN UNFAIR TO US.
BUT I CAN TRUST NONE OTHER.
...OF COURSE.
THERE IS TIME FOR ONE FINAL KISS.
MY LAST.

AND THEN I AM GONE
THE BEGINNING...

NEXT:

A New Sorcerer Supreme Rises!

Doctor Strange is dead! And a new Sorcerer Supreme has taken the title, or should we say, Sorceress! Haunted by her recently returned memories, Clea longs to bring Stephen Strange back from the dead! But when a mysterious group attacks the magical realm, Clea must rise to the duties of Sorcerer Supreme. For she is now the sole protector of Earth against magical threats. Don't miss the twists and turns as Jed MacKay continues the story from DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE with artist Marcelo Ferreira (THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN)!

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ZONE